

## President's Report – May 2018

### Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. Leslie Anderson, curator of European, American and regional art at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, has won a national Award for Excellence from the Association of Art Museum Curators for her re-envisioning of the museum's American and regional art galleries. "American and Regional Art: Mythmaking & Truth-Telling" is one of four curatorial projects in North America recognized in the exhibitions category. Sixteen honorees from a group of 174 nominees were recognized for groundbreaking new scholarship and excellence in curatorial achievements in both exhibitions and publications. The awards were announced May 6 at the Musée d'Art Contemporain Montreal at the association's annual conference.

2. Hurricane Maria's devastation of Puerto Rico last September, which left nearly all the island's 3.4 million residents without power, is one of the most frightening scenarios for a metropolis: A natural disaster or cyberattack wipes out a city's power grid. But University of Utah electrical and computer engineering assistant professor Masood Parvania is building a new laboratory to develop technology that would help communities get their power back online faster in the wake of those kinds of devastating events. He was awarded a three-year, \$2 million grant from the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research beginning July 1 to build the lab and research and test technology for microgrids—smaller, more localized versions of a city's power grid that could provide backup electricity in a catastrophic situation. Parvania and his team at the Utah Smart Energy Lab (U-Smart) will be developing microgrid controllers that act as the computerized brains of a microgrid and determine how to best distribute electrical power in an area. These controllers will be faster, smarter and more secure from cyberattacks, the newest concern for power companies.

3. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and the Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative (USTAR) announced winners Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> for the 2018 Governor's Medals for Science and Technology. The medals are to be presented to four honorees at the Utah Technology Innovation Summit on June 6. University of Utah's Dana Carroll, Ph.D., distinguished professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Utah received the Academic/Research medal.

4. Once again, the University of Utah is among the top 100 universities in the world. According to the 2018-2019 Center for World University Rankings, the U ranks 83 out of 18,000 universities worldwide. The CWUR ranking is the largest academic ranking of global universities.

This year, the U ranks:

- 83rd internationally
- 48th nationally
- 169 for quality of education
- 187 for alumni employment
- 80 for quality of faculty
- 125 for research output
- 105 for quality publications
- 68 for influence
- 93 for citations

The Center for World Universities uses seven objective and robust indicators to rank the world's universities without relying on surveys and university data submissions. Specifically, it considers the number of alumni who have won major international awards, prizes and medals relative to the university's size; the number of alumni who have held CEO positions at the world's top companies relative to the institution's size; the number of academics who have won major international awards, prizes, and medals; the total number of research papers; the number of research papers appearing in top-tier and highly influential journals; and the number of highly cited research papers.

5. William Smith, Education, Culture & Society Professor, was presented with two of the four most prestigious awards given out at the 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. This is particularly notable since no one has received two at the same time. Dr. Smith previously received the Omega Man of the Year in 2011. Since winning these regional awards (Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, California, Seattle, Oregon, and Alaska), he has been nominated for the International Awards which will be given out in July.
  - The 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s Citizen of the Year is selected each year from outstanding citizens nominated for unusual contributions to humanity. The nominee is a person of local/regional/national recognition acclaimed by a significant segment of society for outstanding contributions to the welfare of humankind. The 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s winner is nominated for the International award.
  - The 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s Superior Service Award is be given to a member who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and sustained concern for the activities of his chapter, his District and to the Fraternity. The 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s winner is nominated for the International award.
6. The University of Utah's Utah Student Robotics (USR) team competed for the fourth time May 14- 18 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center for the NASA RMC (Robotic Mining Challenge), winning the SSERVI (Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute) Regolith Mechanics Award as well as 2nd place in the Presentation and Demonstration Award. And the team won with a completely redesigned robot due to changes in the competition rules. NASA RMC is an annual competition held at Kennedy Space Center that tasks over 50 collegiate teams with building a mining robot and mining gravel from beneath the surface of a simulated Martian terrain. The competition challenge is to mine the precious icy regolith (gravel). This water ice will provide oxygen, water and fuel for future off-world colonists. Robots must navigate the difficult and foreign terrain utilizing autonomy, then must reach a dig depth of 12 inches to collect the buried regolith and return the material to a collection bin within a 10-minute round. The USR team was composed of about two dozen students from the University of Utah's mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, computer science and engineering, and geology departments. Eleven students from the U made the journey to Cape Canaveral, Florida.
7. Assistant Professor of Communication Avery Holton, Assistant Professor of History Noel Voltz, and Assistant Professor of English Jeremy Rosen have all been selected for a 2018 National Humanities Center (NHC) Summer Fellowship. Every summer, the NHC invites scholars from around the world to conduct research at the Center. NHC Fellows spend the

month of June researching and writing with the amazing resources of the NHC at their disposal, which includes a world-renowned library and elite staff of research librarians.

Holton's work navigates the intersections of digital and social media, news and information, and constructs of health and identity. Holton will continue to advance a large-scale project focusing on the emerging public discourse about genetic testing as it relates to cancer and other diseases and illnesses.

Voltz's research interests include women of color in slavery and freedom in the U.S. and the Atlantic World. Voltz's current book manuscript, *The Sword in Her Hands: Antebellum Louisiana's Free Women of Color and their Sexual Negotiation for Freedom*, critically examines the ways in which antebellum Louisiana's free women of color used their sexuality as a source of power and a tool of negotiation in their pursuit of freedom. The book argues that free women of color created sexual partnerships with white men to advance themselves socially and economically.

Rosen's work and writing focus on contemporary American and global literature, and the blurry line between literary and pop culture. His next book project, *Genre Bending*, considers the adoption of previously "low" forms of genre fiction by esteemed contemporary writers of literary fiction.